

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel  
Work Session Summary

April 29, 2009  
UW Tacoma, Tacoma

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Science Panel Members Present:

- Joel Baker
  - Guy Gelfenbaum
  - Robert Johnston
  - Jan Newton
  - Timothy Quinn
  - Frank Shipley (by phone)
  - John Stark
  - Usha Varanasi (by phone)
  - Katharine Wellman
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Work Session Summary:

- Peer Review Process Development discussion
  - Continue work on the Strategic Science Plan
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**9:10 a.m. WORK SESSION**

Science Panel Chair Joel Baker opened the meeting and noted that Usha Varanasi and Frank Shipley will be joining the meeting via phone. He then reviewed the agenda for the day.

**PEER REVIEW PROCESS DEVELOPMENT**

Joel discussed the need for the Science Panel to get a peer review process in place. The plan for 2009 is to get the processing in place that we had been discussing in 2008.

Scott Redman and Joel Baker met with Ecology's modeling group. This group has requested the Science Panel peer review of their water quality modeling work. This work came through the first \$20 million in federal National Estuary Preserve (NEP) funds. The peer review needs to be done by this summer.

Ecology has funding available to do the peer review. If the Panel takes this work on, it would need to figure out how to get the capacity to do the work. This would not put the Panel in the place of doing all agencies' peer reviews but would be our test peer review to see how we want to do this process.

After discussion, the Panel members decided they would like to move forward on this:

- Joel and Scott will go back to Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to:
  - Make sure they still want the Panel to do this peer review process
  - Clarify the budget for this exercise
  - Get questions that EPA and Ecology are wanting answered in the review (what the models are and questions being asked)
- Gather previous charges to previous peer review earlier modeling work
- Would identify one person to chair the review panel
  - Science Panel members nominate names for the potential chair
  - A subcommittee would decide on chair
  - The chair would then identify potential members to be on the review panel
  - Science Panel would then appoint the final review panel to move forward

This will be further discussed during the May Science Panel Meeting.

## **PANEL BASICS**

### *Updates*

The Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) elected its new chair, Dave Somers, at its last meeting. Joel has sent Dave an e-mail congratulating him on his new position and suggested a meeting with him to promote coordination between the two boards.

There are now five Science Policy Work Groups identified. The Panel discussed what topics the various groups would cover and how the members will be identified. Science Panel members will let Tammy Owings know which group(s) they would like to be assigned to. She will compile the information and provide it to the David Dicks and the Leadership Council. The Work Groups will be further discussed during the Performance Management discussion during the May Science Panel meeting.

Scott Redman provided a spreadsheet with FFY08 science related projects noting that this will be further discussed at the May Science Panel meeting during Jim Cahill's budget presentation. To link with the Science Policy Work Groups, Scott will add a column to the spreadsheet for "key information needed."

Michael Rylko, EPA, was at this meeting and noted that the FFY09 EPA money will be handled differently from past funding as it will be competitively distributed.

The Panel discussed the need for a review process to make sure we are getting the right products and we're getting our money's worth. Boundaries need to be set on how and what level of review is needed for the products that are being funding through the Partnership.

Scott noted that during the Action Agenda Performance Management agenda item at the May Science Panel meeting, staff would provide information about the intermediate outcomes process the Partnership is planning to use. Panel members can see more about this process at [www.conservationmeasures.org](http://www.conservationmeasures.org).

## **STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN**

The Panel spent the rest of the day working through the Strategic Science Plan with the assistance of technical writer Margaret Clancy with ESAdolfson.

The Panel discussed whether this document is a plan or a strategy. It was decided that it is a plan but it is also a long-term strategy for science work and will be used in concert with the Biennial Science Work Plan, which will be revised every two years.

Jan reviewed the current outline for the Strategic Science Plan and what each of the sections is meant to convey.

There was still some concern on whether this document is a program or a plan and what the definition is for both – the Partnership is new so this document will need to be a building block that we wouldn't need to have if we were farther down the road in building the science program. The Panel believes that a strong and clear executive summary will define and clarify the purpose of this document. As with many things, we are working backwards, the Strategic Science Plan should have been in place before the first Biennial Science Work Plan was developed.

After the afternoon's discussion, Jan Newton reviewed the next steps:

- Section 6 – Jan Newton, Margaret Clancy, Scott Redman, and Trina Wellman
- Section 4 – Tim Quinn will add paragraph to intro and fill in the example questions for terrestrial/fresh water part of habitat and species
- John Stark will review the water quality section
- Trina Wellman will work on human wellbeing section
- Jan will draft and Guy Gelfenbaum will review, the water quantity section
- Jan will work with Frank Shipley on the marine parts of the habitat and species section
- Usha Varanasi will work on human health examples
- Jan and Scott will work on Section 5

Before the next work session on June 24, the plan will be for Margaret to:

- Rewrite the Strategic Science Plan per today's discussion
- Provide to Science Panel for review and comment
- Make additional revisions per comments
- Have staff get the document out for peer review
- Science Panel will respond to comments received
- Finalize the document

Margaret's contract ends on June 30, 2009.

## OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public testimony requested

**3:00 p.m. ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Tammy Owings  
Special Assistant to the Boards

Next Meeting: Regular meeting May 7 & 8, 2009  
USGS Western Fisheries Research Center